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In search of conduits for possible transmission, the Jesuits became a possibility. They were in Cochin and Goa from around the middle of the sixteenth century. They had some of the best training in mathematics of that time in Europe. They realized from the time of their foundation as religious order that countries such as India and China could be impressed by scientific and intellectual prowess. They were also in the forefront of developments in educational, theoretical and practical sciences in Europe. They established a continuous presence in Malabar from the time of the arrival of Francis Xavier in Goa in 1540 to 1670; and those who appeared after 1578 seem to have as a secondary objective the gathering of information about India. So that in the talks that I gave before and after the book came out and in the second edition of the 'Crest of the Peacock' (2000), I

first published in 1991. On page 20 of that book, I had remarked:

> *"One of the conjectures posed in Chapter 9 is the possibility that mathematics from medieval India, particularly from the southern state of Kerala may have had an impact on European mathematics of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries."*

I then went on to add that this conjecture remained to be investigated further.

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